

CWA 7250 UNION UPDATE



SUMMER 2024

See below for Notes and/or Links on . . .

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- ★ LOCAL NAILS AT&T FOR WATERMARK VIOLATION ★ **DISTRICT 6 MOA RAISES CONCERNS** ★ GIGAPOWER COMES TO MN
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- ★ **CWA FIGHTS FOR RETIREES OVER PENSION** ★ REMEMBER 1934 – MPLS TEAMSTER STRIKE ANNIVERSARY

Local Doubles Membership!



ADT Security & Activision Workers Organize & Vote to Join CWA 7250

CWA Local 7250 doubled in size this Spring as workers from **ADT Security** and **Activision Quality Assurance** organized themselves and then voted overwhelmingly in favor of unionization with CWA Local 7250. This follows previous organizing at Rove Pest Control's Call Center and workers at Sassafra Tech Collective affiliating with CWA 7250 last year.

Driven by frustration with unending overtime, stagnant wages and disrespect from management, ADT Technician **Tim Bui** began organizing his co-workers to unionize. He was quickly joined by a majority of employees of the Shoreview, MN based home security company. CWA Local 7250 organizers assisted the workers in making a plan to get through the NLRB election and certification process. On February 15th, **Minnesota ADT Techs voted 14-4 to unionize with CWA.**

Workers at Activision, the video game giant, had been organizing for months – first against blatant sexist, homophobic, and transphobic comments and culture prompted by management, then other issues including wages, protection from layoffs, and a familiar one to members of Local 7250: the desire to keep working from home.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED: ADT & ACTIVISION WORKERS DOUBLE SIZE OF CWA LOCAL 7250

The organizing at Activision got a boost after its new parent company **Microsoft**, looking to convince regulators to approve its purchase, signed a unique neutrality agreement with **CWA International President Claude Cummings**. The pact obligated all Activision managers to remain neutral and allowed CWA Local 7250 and District 7 organizers access to workplace breakrooms.

The efforts of long-time worker-organizers like **Emily Danko, Kara Fannon, Allen Junge, Tony Perkins, Andrew Snell, Luis Velazquez**, and others were joined by CWA 7250 members from the AT&T Call Center, AT&T Retail, DirecTV, and Rove Pest Control (Thanks **Angie, Arion, Chad, Hector, Kieran, Lewis, Michelle, Traci, Vince, and Zach!**) . After several weeks of canvassing the breakrooms, committee meetings, and other outreach - CWA won representation at Activision facilities in Minnesota, Texas, and California in an **overall vote of 390-8(!)**. The approximately 330 employees at the Eden Prairie quality assurance facilities will join CWA Local 7250.

The expanding size of our Union is exciting and opens up new opportunities to build working-class power. Already we have built Stewards groups in the workplace and elected Bargaining Committees to negotiate first contracts. But it will also surely cause some growing pains as well. We will need to share our Local with new groups of workers from outside the telecom industry who will have their own ideas and experiences that they bring to the table. We will have to work in good faith to make the Local a welcoming place where workers can learn from each other and fight together against our common enemies.



Steward class for Activision workers



ADT Workers Organizing Committee

OLD & NEW FACES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Welcome back **Angie Bates** AVP for the AT&T Call Center and to **Traci Doll** new AVP for the AT&T Retail Stores – each appointed by the E-Board & unanimously ratified by the membership. Congrats to **Dave Bennett**, re-elected in a run-off for Member-at-Large on the E-Board.

ROVE PEST CONTROL WORKERS AUTHORIZE STRIKE & HOLD RALLY FOR A FAIR CONTRACT



Fox 9 News airs announcement of Rove Workers Rally



CWA 7250 AT&T Call Center Workers Join Rally at Rove

On June 20th members of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7250 voted unanimously to authorize a strike if bargaining fails at Rove Pest Control company. While negotiations continue, and tentative agreements have been reached on a number of subjects, the top issues remain unresolved.

“It’s been one step forward – and two pay steps backwards, per the company’s proposals”, said **Zach Sager**, one of the call center employees. “Rove needs to get serious – or we’ll strike.”

Workers at the East Metro extermination company’s call center voted overwhelmingly to unionize with CWA Local 7250 back on September 15th 2023. The main issues that fueled the union drive were low wages, poor benefits, no funeral/bereavement time, and management’s disrespectful attitude towards hourly workers.

“Six months is too long to be negotiating for paid breaks, regular raises, accountable management, and union representation. This is starting to really bug me”, quipped Rove worker **Greg Bute**. “We need to get this pest under control.”

After more than 6 months of bargaining, the union workers at Rove believe it’s time to turn up the heat. CWA 7250 members rallied at Rove Pest Control on July 18th along with representatives of the United Auto Workers, Carpenters, and Minneapolis Teachers.

Union members chanted “Rove Workers Need a Raise!”, and Who’s Got the Power? We Got the Power! What Kind of Power? UNION Power!” The chanting could be heard in the bargaining session with Rove management.

Emmett Doyle, a union carpenter and labor troubadour brought his guitar to the rally and belted out some militant anthems.

Senior Rove employee, **Bruce Nielsen** was blunt, “If these talks haven’t moved the action – maybe some action will move the talks”.

CWA Local 7250 Vice President **Michelle Richardson**, who oversaw the strike authorization vote, affirmed the union’s commitment to winning a fair contract, “As always, we will do whatever it takes.”

CWA Local 7250 Pushes Union to Enforce Contract “Watermark”

Our Legacy T contract with AT&T has a watermark agreement (a mandatory minimum headcount) of 2000 workers. This number was bargained in the 2018 contract and then extended until April 2026. (Separately, in Article 43 the company guaranteed a watermark of 600 NTS Techs).

Local asks for watermark info:

Last year, **CWA 7250 Stewards Shomari Conley** (Call Center) and **Gabriel Perez** (NTS) each started asking the Local for the watermark numbers. This was a good question!

CWA 7250 started asking the national union (the CWA T&T office led by CWA VP Bolton) for the updated headcount numbers. It took a while, but with a new Assistant in charge of that office, they started asking for and getting numbers from the company - and they were not good. The company was UNDER the agreed watermark, and has been for at least a year, and the number keeps going DOWN! We'll find out the updated number at the end of this month but we estimate the company is over 80 jobs short of the agreement.

Grievance Strategy:

Initially CWA T&T office was going to file an Executive Level grievance at the national level but then decided that in keeping with contractual process it would be better to have Locals file and then be escalated up to the national level.

CWA 7250 was the first Local to file the grievance. We shared our grievance form and Request for Information questions with several other Locals under the contract, and now some of them have filed grievances as well.

At the Local level we got Inda to agree to merge the 1st & 2nd step (local) grievance meetings, so that we could escalate it to DC quicker. The grievance meeting was attended by **Kieran Knutson**, **Michelle Richardson**, and **Shomari Conley** for the union, and by Laura Inda for the Company.

The Company refused to answer most of the questions in our RFI - around call routing, jobs overseas, headcount in other AT&T centers, etc.

We were able to show that during a time of massive attrition in our Center, with no backfilling, the company moved work OUT of our center to other centers under different CWA contracts and without watermarks. We were also able to get Inda on the record that she had ASKED at

least twice for job ads to hire in more workers - but was rejected for “budgetary” reasons. All of this shows bad faith on the company’s part in abiding by the watermark.

Inda asked us to re-ask some of our RFI questions with more explanation. But denied the grievance at the end of last week. This week we will appeal the watermark grievance to the national level at the CWA T&T office in DC.

A similar process went down with **Gabriel Perez’s** grievance on the Tech side.

Final Thoughts:

It is clear that the company wants to get rid of the Legacy T contract and much of the work now done under it. Mainly they have been trying to do this via attrition (so they don’t have to pay severance or unemployment) but recently in District 6 (TX, OK, AR, KS, MO) the company got CWA to agree to MOVE almost 900 Core workers (in the old SW Bell contract) to the Purple Mobility contracts (the union said they did it to save the jobs). While the Core workers were pay-protected for the life of the contract, the average Core call center worker is paid about \$8/hr more than Mobility call center workers. Future bargaining in that contract (and in all contracts) will be about whether we can raise mobility wages to match core wages or whether core jobs will be merged into mobility contracts and eventually eliminated.

The watermark in our contract is a big problem for the company as it prevents them from having the flexibility to do lay offs or do a D6-type of merger into a mobility contract. That’s why it’s so important that we fight to keep it and expand it.

Latest Update: The CWA T&T office and AT&T Labor met on the watermark grievance at the end of July and we expect the company’s response any day . . .

Watch AT&T blatantly violate the contractual “watermark” over the last year . . .

August 16, 2023

To: Local Presidents Representing AT&T Legacy T Members

Re: Watermark Status

During our monthly Legacy T calls and meetings, the watermark has been an item of discussion regarding where the watermark stands. Our office has reached out to the Company for a status. Below is what was reported back to us:

The following headcount numbers are as of July 31st, 2023:

- The Legacy T overall headcount number is 1,973 against the watermark of 2,000;
- The Network Technical Specialist headcount number is 864 against the watermark of 600.



Kieran Frazier Knutson

January 8 · 🌐



Finally got the November Legacy T watermark specifics:

1959/2000 (41 under) 🙄

Within that, NTS Techs 858/600 (258 over) 😞



Shari Wojtowicz and Ann Jensen

1 comment · Seen by 123



Like



Comment



Send



CWA 7250

March 8 · 🌐



🚨 !! New Legacy T WATERMARK numbers are out, and it's not good:

Total: 1941/2000 (59 Under!

NTS Techs 841/600 (241 over)



Co... [See more](#)



Shomari Conley, Tina Poore-Ross and 3 others

4 comments · Seen by 103



CWA 7250

May 31 · 🌐



AT&T Legacy T Watermark update: Company violation continues!

AT&T is now 77 jobs short of their headcount obligations.

1923/2000 total headcount ... [See more](#)



Jeff Buhman, Robert Zbierski and 2 others

Seen by 81



Like



Comment



Send



New Business...

Meet the New Boss, Same as the Old Boss?

After several flight delays and over the top hype from Local management, **Tejas Antani**, the new Vice President of Business Customer Service & Sales finally arrived for a visit to the AT&T Collections Center in Bloomington on Wednesday, July 24th. He was able to fit a short meeting in with Local Union officers **Kieran Knutson**, **Michelle Richardson**, **Chad Perkins** and **Angela Bates**.



Its always dicey taking too much out of these meetings – we should judge people on their actions, because words are cheap. Antani did apologize for all of the payroll issues, and he actually brought up the **15-Minute Flex issue** before the Union could - he had seen all the posters up in the office. He said he was open to returning the 15-Minute Flex to us, depending on what it would take technically – he did not seem dug in against us like his predecessor Trish Renz. He also stated that he was now over some 30 AT&T Centers across the country and thought he probably needed only 10 (!). The Union emphasized the knowledge, skills, and commitment that our members bring to the company and our willingness to take on all-in-one work (along with the respect, input, and compensation needed). Time will tell what Antani's plans are for our Center – we'll be fighting for good jobs with dignity and **real** living wages.

CWA District 6 MOA with AT&T Causes Concern

This Spring we started hearing whispers that CWA District 6 (Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas) had signed a precedent-setting agreement with AT&T moving hundreds of call center workers from the AT&T Southwest Core Contract into the Purple Mobility Contract. While the agreement has seniority and pay protections for these workers – there were several major concerns across CWA.

The Mobility contracts are much younger than the traditional core AT&T-CWA Telecom contracts, and therefore weaker – considerably so in some instances, Call Center pay scales being a major one. Mobility contracts have generally functioned as a second, lower “tier” within telecom and CWA – so pushing hundreds of workers into a second-tier contract, rather than raising Mobility workers into the wages, rights and benefits of the Core contracts is worrisome

How and why was this agreement signed? The workers in District 6 were impacted more than anyone in this unprecedented move, but didn't get a heads up – let alone a voice in the decision. CWA D6 VP Osobase maintained that the agreement was necessary. Osobase said AT&T had threatened to surplus all of the D6 Call Centers and that this agreement will secure jobs, protect pay, and maintain workplaces.

We have made relevant documents available on our CWA Local 7250 website, so workers in our Local and across the Union can review the facts and make their own judgement about this move. There is no doubt that the Company will seek to replicate this contract-transfer in other Districts and Units - including the Legacy T Core Contract and the Orange Mobility Contract.

What we have to do is to fight to make these changes on our terms and in our interests – not those of the telecom oligarchs.

<https://www.cwa7250.org/index.php/11-news/283-cwa-district-6-moa-with-at-t-causes-concern>

MN Department of Labor Confirm AT&T's Actions Violate Law

After literally months of serious payroll issues at the Bloomington AT&T Call Center, the Union confirmed with the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry that the company's methods were not legal. Specifically, AT&T's practice of deducting amounts from members paychecks without notification, explanation, or consent – many of these deductions have turned out to be in error and we have got the Company to pay them back. Going forward, the Local plans to aggressively follow-up with grievances and official complaints lodged at the MN Department of Labor. We need to tell the company to keep their hands out of our members' pockets!

From: kieran.knutson@cwa7250.org
Date: Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 10:26 AM
Subject: Wage deductions?
To: dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us <dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us>
Cc: union@cwa7250.org <union@cwa7250.org>

Hello,

Please advise whether MINNESOTA STATUTE 181.79 covers situations where the employer is claiming that an employee was previously overpaid.

1. For instance, could an employer debit an employee's paycheck in July for a supposed overpayment from the previous January , without consent or notice?
2. What obligations, if any, does an employer have to give notice before making a deduction from a paycheck for previous overpayment?
3. What obligations, if any, does an employer have to gain consent from the employee before making a deduction from a paycheck for previous overpayment?

Thank you for all that you do.

Kieran

Kieran F. Knutson
CWA 7250 Local President

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 4:23 PM
To: kieran.knutson@cwa7250.org
Subject: RE: Wage deductions?


Good afternoon, Kieran,

Thank you for your email. Here is response to your questions.

1. No. Minn. Stat. 181.79 generally requires that an employer get an employee's written consent before deducting money from an employee's wages for any "claimed indebtedness running from employee to employer."
2. Under Minn. Stat. 181.79, an employer must get the employee's voluntary written authorization to deduct money for a claimed indebtedness.
3. Under Minn. Stat 181.79, requires the employee's voluntary written authorization.

[REDACTED]

Ibrahim M. Muzamez
Labor Investigator Senior | Labor Standards
Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155
| Web: www.dli.mn.gov



CWA Techs Battle Overgrown Brush and Rattlesnakes(!) in Nebraska



CWA 7250 Technicians in Nebraska have filed a grievance over the company's failure to clear AT&T sites of brush, tall weeds, grass and other cover and to maintain clean facilities. In July AT&T Network Tech **Olaf Carlson** and steward **Piero Sutti** filed a grievance after many weeks of complaints to AT&T CRE (Corporate Real Estate) went nowhere. The final straw came when Olaf ran into a rattlesnake (!) while navigating his way through the overgrown underbrush to an AT&T site. **NO MORE!** AT&T needs to follow its own policies and rhetoric and keep our members safe!

AT&T's GIGAPOWER comes to Minnesota on the Backs of Exploited Migrant Labor

Gigapower is the front company formed by AT&T and the multinational investment company Blackrock to roll out high-speed internet fiber that will carry AT&T's internet service. In Minnesota, Gigapower has outsourced the build-out to another company, ITG, who in-turn has sub-contracted to other companies and so on.

The majority of the workers doing this multi-million-dollar roll-out are migrant workers working for \$150-\$200 a day, 11 hours a day, 6 days a week, with no benefits. Gigapower is starting in Bloomington, and has been wreaking havoc across the city. Gas lines power lines, water lines, and telecom lines have all been cut by Gigapower's contractors. There have been so many problems that the City of Bloomington has shut down the roll-out in the city **twice** for multiple weeks to get the company to correct their work.

Communities across the country need good, fast, reliable internet service. But this future of communication – that the big telecom bosses at AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon are betting will net them billions in profits – can't be built on the backs of the working-poor. These workers and our communities need quality jobs with good training and safety protections, real living wages and decent benefits.

CWA Local 7250 is working with our District and International union to expose these shameful practices, hold AT&T accountable for its Gigapower front, and help give these workers a voice and a choice to unionize.

AT&T Mobility Cracking Down on Schedule Adjustments

The company has been cracking down on Retail Sales Consultant (RSC)'s updating and adjusting their schedule compared to their timestamps. Management has been comparing the updates/adjustments in Infor to store video camera footage of the RSCs in the stores - and disciplined at least 3 RSCs at three different stores that we know of for "inaccurate" time reporting - some for just a couple minutes. The Union has been able to protect each RSC's job, but there have been written letters of discipline in each instance.

PLEASE - Don't make it easy for the company to discipline you - keep accurate time records. Talk to your manager about any changes or discrepancies. Contact the Union with any questions or concerns. If you get pulled into any investigation or disciplinary meeting - tell management you want your Union rep (it is illegal for them to retaliate against you for asking for your Union rep) and contact CWA 7250 AVP **Traci Doll** ASAP.

Top Issues at Mobility Remain

CWA 7250 Union Officers and Area Vice President Traci Doll and another retail Steward will meet with AT&T Director of Sales Kris Logue and his Regional Sales Managers in September. Many of the issues that the Union will bring – are issues that have been raised multiple times already. We will continue to highlight and fight for:

- **Bilingual RSC Compensation** – essential, extra work by our Bilingual Members need to be paid
- **4x10 Shifts** – Give our Memebers more flexibility and we'll slow turnover
- **Appropriate Store Hours** – Let stores set reasonable hours that make sense and respect our members' lives
- **A/R Stores** – These anti-union outsourced stores codntinue to be blight on the product and the brand

DirectTV Updates

CWA 7250 Steward **Ann Jensen** managed to protect full incentive pay for all Minnesota DTV Call Center workers through May while the company's metrics were updated and made more fair. Steward **Arion Walker** succesfully pushed back against attempts by management to deny him and co-workers the right to leave the office during their 15-minute breaks now that the vending machines have been removed from the office. A grievance over denying 4 members pay for the MLK holiday is now at District 7 pending approval to go to arbitration.

Updates to the Minnesota Earned Sick & Safe Time law

The earned sick and safe time (ESST) law was recently updated to clarify who qualifies for ESST, the rate at which ESST must be paid, ESST application to other paid time off and more. **One of the new changes is around Bereavement leave:** As a result of the ESST law changes, ESST hours can now be used to make funeral arrangements, attend a funeral service or memorial or address financial or legal matters that arise after the death of a family member.

For more information: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sick-leave-changes>

GRIEVANCE STATUS REPORT

AT&T Call Center

- Grievance over Company's Unilateral End of 15-Minute Flex Option: At 3rd Step with CWA T&T Office
- Grievance over an Unjust Appraisal Going to 2nd Step
- The Watermark grievances were argued at 3rd Step by CWA T&T Office and now waiting for Company Response
- Two Grievances over harm caused by the new MVP vacation tool were recently filed
- Old 2022 Grievance over Unpaid Work for moving equipment back to office has been appealed to CWA President
- Old 2022 Grievance over end to long-standing practice of Xmas Eve half-days has been appealed to CWA President
- Two old 2021 grievances over access to Alliance pre-aid tuition are still with the CWA T&T Office

AT&T Retail Stores

- Grievance over Hostile Work Environment at a suburban store is waiting for response from 2nd Step
- Grievance recently filed over Unjust Termination at a Northern Minnesota store
- 2022 Grievance over COVID termination was withdrawn for consideration for arbitration after member left country

AT&T Techs

- The Watermark grievances were argued at 3rd Step by CWA T&T Office and now waiting for Company Response
- Grievance recently filed over Unsafe Working Conditions over CRE failure to safely clear sites

DirecTV Call Center

- Grievance over 4 Members who were not paid for the MLK Holiday is with District 7 for arbitration consideration



New York Times March 13, 2024

These Workers Are Risking Their Lives to Restore Gaza's Phone Network

Telecommunications infrastructure has been devastated in the territory, largely preventing Palestinians from calling for help, coordinating the delivery of aid and communicating with family abroad.



By **Adam Rasgon**

Adam Rasgon reported from Jerusalem and Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, and spoke to engineers and technicians in the Gaza Strip via video.

When Mohammed Sweirky prepared to leave for a work trip in January to repair telecommunications infrastructure that had been destroyed in northern Gaza, his wife and children pleaded with him not to go.

Fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas members was still raging in the area, said Mr. Sweirky, who is a technician for Paltel, the largest telecommunications company in Gaza, and his family worried he might not return. But he said he felt he had no choice given that residents there desperately needed their phone services restored.

"It was painful to say bye," said Mr. Sweirky, 50, who fled Gaza City at the beginning of [the war](#) and is now sheltering with six family members in a garage [in Rafah](#), the territory's southernmost city. "They were crying, but I couldn't abandon our mission."

Since the start of the war, Mr. Sweirky's job has become among the most dangerous in Gaza and also one of the most important. Israel's bombing campaign against Hamas has pummeled telecommunications infrastructure in Gaza, destroying subterranean fiber cables, damaging data centers and blowing up cell towers.

Since the war began, some 50 engineers and technicians at Paltel, one of two Palestinian cell service providers in Gaza, have crisscrossed the enclave to reinstate service in neighborhoods that have been plunged into blackouts for days and even weeks.

Paltel — which is dependent on three telecommunication lines that pass through Israel — operates infrastructure in Gaza. Trying to repair that infrastructure has entailed enormous risks for Paltel technicians, who often have to work near battles and who say they have also come under fire.

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CONTINUED: NYTimes on PALESTINIAN TELECOM WORKERS UNDER SIEGE IN GAZA

At least two Paltel employees have been killed on the job, according to the company and the Palestinian Authority's telecommunications ministry. A total of 16 have died since the war began, Paltel said.

Blackouts across Gaza have severely hampered the ability of Palestinians to call for help, [report on unfolding events](#), coordinate the delivery of aid and communicate with friends and family abroad. Calls routinely go straight to voice mail, and when they connect, the connection is often weak.

Some Palestinians in Gaza have found ways to bypass the blackouts by using cards compatible with Israeli or Egyptian networks and by connecting to backup infrastructure known as microwave links.

"During a war, the difference between life and death can be one phone call," said Tariq Bakhit, 33, an emergency medical worker. "We can barely do anything without the ability to communicate."



A destroyed Paltel building in Gaza City in October. Credit: Mohammed Saber/EPA, via Shutterstock

A Paltel executive and the Palestinian Authority's telecommunications ministry blame most of the poor connectivity on airstrikes and on bulldozed roads, causing damage to infrastructure above and below ground.

But the executive, Mamoon Fares, the head of Paltel's Gaza emergency committee, said Israel had also shut down communications in Gaza three times. He said Paltel had come to that conclusion because the network was later restored without its intervention on those occasions. The Israeli military declined to comment.

Mr. Fares said that dozens of miles of Paltel's fiber cables had been destroyed, two of its four major data centers put offline and more than 100 of its cell towers wrecked in the fighting. Before Paltel employees enter Israeli-controlled areas, the company says it sends the names, ID numbers and license plate information of technicians to international organizations or Palestinian officials, who transfer the data to Israeli security officials. After receiving Israel's

permission to embark on a project, employees adhere to instructions from Israeli officials, including specific routes they outline on maps, the company said.

But there have still been several close calls and one deadly incident, according to Paltel. In mid-December, members of a Paltel team found themselves in the middle of the fighting. They were trying to reconnect a cable submerged in a water-filled crater in the southern city of Khan Younis when clashes between the Israeli military and militants erupted, said Kamel Amsy, 52, an engineer on the team. Overcome with fear, they laid flat on the ground as bullets flew overhead.

"The tanks nearby went crazy," he said. "The situation was petrifying." When Mr. Fares called Palestinian officials to request they inform their Israeli counterparts that his employees were in the line of fire, according to established protocol, the Israelis said that the technicians should stay put, the Paltel executive recalled.

Biden, Gaza, and Union Democracy

- A Statement from the CWA Local 7250 Executive Board



The General Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions in Gaza City was bombed by an Israeli aircraft on 7 March 2024. The Federation's building not only serves as a hub for trade union activities but also houses vital community services, including a kindergarten catering to approximately 380 boys and girls, a large automated bakery, and other essential facilities for Palestinian civilians

At the urging of a group of represented members, CWA Local 7250's Executive Board has voted unanimously to call on our union, Communications Workers of America to reconsider its endorsement of Joe Biden for President of the USA for the following reasons:

1. President Biden has given "unwavering support" to the Israeli military's genocidal assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza leaving millions displaced, over 34, 000 killed (two-thirds women and children - the vast majority of civilians); hospitals, schools, and civilian infrastructure in ruins - including the headquarters of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions. The early union support for Biden is effectively a blank check to continue this policy.
2. The US supports Israel with diplomatic cover in the UN and with billions in military aid that could be better spent on education, housing, and health care.
3. Joe Biden has lied to the people, and justified police violence against campus protesters - including CWA members - by claiming that solidarity with Palestinians is "hate speech" and that protesters are motivated by antisemitism, despite the large number of Jewish participants in the protests. Members of CWA United Campus Workers in Arizona have been arrested and beaten for exercising their rights to protest. <https://www.ucwarizona.org/ucwaz-statement-on-asu-mass-arrests>
4. The endorsement of Joe Biden came without even polling the union's membership, let alone engaging the union in democratic discussion and decision-making. CWA members have wide and diverse views and decisions like this should not be made top-down, but bottom-up with the members involved and in charge. There are many very good reasons to fear Biden's major opponent, Donald Trump. We do not support Trump either.

But to effectively fight authoritarianism requires more democracy - not less.

Our union should empower our members, and encourage discussion, debate, and democracy. We should not just be the rubber-stamps and foot soldiers for any politician.

For these reasons we call on CWA to rescind its endorsement of Joe Biden and facilitate a democratic process to consider options, make demands, set conditions, and look at real alternatives to the present political set-up.

- CWA Local 7250 Executive Board, May 3rd 2024

REMEMBER 1934

Commemorating 90th Anniversary of the Great Minneapolis Teamsters Strike

On Sunday, July 28th Union members, family descendants, and community activists gathered at Minnehaha Park to honor the 1934 Teamsters Strike – the struggle that made Minneapolis a “Union Town”.

Over three strikes in February, May and July of 1934 the militant Minneapolis Teamsters battled the combined strength of the local ruling class and their strike breakers in the form of the anti-union Citizens Alliance, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the National Guard. On July 20th 1934, “Bloody Friday”, the MPD opened fire on striking workers, murdering two men and wounding over 60 more. Henry Ness was a striking Teamster and a veteran of World War I. John Belor was an unemployed worker who had joined the Union’s cause. Both men gave their lives so that the workers of Minneapolis might win the fight.

At this year’s commemoration, Teamsters Local 120 served burgers and hot dogs, musicians sang songs of solidarity, Professor Peter Rachleff shared the history, and workers from the Minneapolis Parks, the Minnesota Nurses Association, the Minneapolis Teachers Federation, CTUL, Half-Price Books, the newly organized Grad Students at the U of M, and our very own **Greg Bute** from Rove Pest Control spoke of the struggles today and the vision that we are fighting for.

CWA 7250 has supported the Remember 1934 Committee for 20 years. We must not let this history be forgotten.



To learn more about the 1934 Teamsters Strike:

- **American City: A Rank & File History of Minneapolis** (Walker);
- **Community of Suffering and Struggle: Women, Men & the Labor Movement in Minneapolis 1915-1945** (Faue)
- **Revolutionary Teamsters: The Minneapolis Truckers Strikes of 1934** (Palmer)
- **Teamster Rebellion** (Dobbs);

Video Documentary: Labor’s Turning Point

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfE9Aa1xYXw>

REMEMBER 1934 Committee

Website: <https://rem34.ampmpls.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Remember1934>

1934 Strike Song (Emmett Doyle):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9NbdR5o2IQ>

